1873MNRAS..33..500L

Observations of Tempel's Comet of Short Period, made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

(*Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.*)

	Greenwich M.S.T.	Observed R.A.	Observed N.P.D.
	d h m	h m s	° ′ ″
1873, May	19 13 6	16 31 44·5	105 45 7
	22 13 20	16 30 0·3	106 15 40

The correction for parallax is not applied.

These observations, compared with the ephemeris computed by Mr. Hind from Dr. Von Asten's elements (p. 459 of the *Monthly Notices*), give the following corrections to the ephemeris:—

	R.A.	N.P.D.
d	s	′ ″
May 19	+28·9	−12 8
22	+28·3	−12 20

Mean Positions of Comparison Stars, for 1873, Jan. 1, from observations made with the transit circle:—

		R.A.	N.P.D.
		h m s	° ′ ″
May 19	*	16 32 35·4	105 44 16·3
22	Oeltzen's Argelander 15776	16 30 19·6	106 35 24·0

The comet was slightly oblong in the direction of parallel, about 40″ in diameter, and had a centrical nucleus, appearing like a blurred star of the twelfth or thirteenth magnitude. It was examined with eye-pieces of various powers, and was distinctly and steadily visible with all.

The observations were made with the Great Equatoreal by Mr. Christie and Mr. H. Carpenter.

Observations of the Planet Venus with a 6-inch Silvered Glass Reflector. By R. Langdon, Esq.

On the 2nd of January, 1873, there was a cloudy mark, of a semicircular shape, extending nearly across the disk, and a dark spot in the centre; the illuminated disk itself was singularly egg-shaped. (See Sketch,* No. 1.) Bad weather prevented me from constantly observing this planet as I should like to have done, but on the 17th April, at 8 o'clock, P.M., I was viewing the

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* The drawings here referred to were exhibited at the meeting, and may be seen at the Society's rooms.

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planet with one of Mr. Browning's excellent achromatic eye-pieces, when I saw two exceedingly bright spots on the crescent —one close to the terminator, towards the eastern horn, and the other in the centre of the crescent. These spots appeared like two drops of dew ; they were glistening in such a manner as to cause the surrounding parts of the bright crescent to appear dull by contrast. (See Sketch, No. 2.) Cloudy weather prevented me seeing the planet again until the 19th, when the spots had disappeared, but the planet on this occasion was seen through the aurora, and the irregular and uneven appearance of the terminator was most beautifully depicted. The whole body of the planet also was distinctly visible. (See Sketch, No. 3.)

Positions of the Radiant Point of the Meteor Shower of Nov. 27th, 1872. By Prof. Herschel, F.R.A.S.

In continuation of the results communicated in a former list,* I have received from many correspondents, and in some cases from original observers of the shower particulars relating to the position of the radiant point of the meteors seen or recorded during the display of the 27th of November last. With the exception of a few additional observations contained in the present list, all the radiant positions contained in this, and in the foregoing list, are represented in the map accompanying the General Reports of the Society on the Progress of Astronomy during the past year † ; and the successive numbers of the following radiant points are continued from those of the previous list in the *Monthly Notices* of December last. The addition of several new radiant-points, chiefly derived from Signor F. Denza's memoir on the shower as seen in Italy, and at many favourably situated places in Europe and America, introduces no very sensible alteration in their general grouping on the map ; but for the more ready comparison of their positions the accompanying diagram exhibits eighty-two places of the radiant point that are sufficiently well described in these observations to be represented in each case by a definite or single point.‡

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* These *Notices*, vol. xxxiii. p. 77.

† These *Notices*, vol. xxxiii. p. 255.

‡ Eight new and equally definite positions (marked with duplicate reference numbers in the list) are not contained in this map ; but all the radiant positions marked with an asterisk * (68 observations in this list and 22 in the foregoing one) are included in the following average results. Radiant positions included between brackets, thus [20° + 45°], are approximate positions only, described by the constellations, and they are not inserted in the figure nor included in the mean results. All the radiant places in the former list were well determined points, but certain corrections in them are required which may be thus briefly enumerated,—

No. 1 (at ξ *Cassiopeiæ*) an outlying radiant only; noted by Mr. Wood, the

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